

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /092 W

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R 281504Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5194

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 2298

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, FR

SUBJECT: POLISARIO ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO RELEASE TWO
FRENCH TECHNICIANS

1. UNDER DATE LINE "BIR LAHLOU (SDAR)," ALGERIAN PRESS
SEPT 27 CARRIES POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THAT TWO
FRENCH NATIONALS CAPTURED BY "SAHRAOUI POPULAR LIBERATION
ARMY" ARE TO BE RELEASED. DECISION, COMMUNIQUE CONTINUES,
FOLLOWS VISIT TO SDAR BY ICRC DELEGATION. COMMUNIQUE
ALSO NOTES THAT POLISARIO HAS ALREADY FREED SEVERAL
MAURITANIANS, SPANIARDS AND ONE DUTCHMAN IN CONFORMITY
WITH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND THAT FREEING OF
FRENCHMEN REPRESENTS DESIRE ON POLISARIO'S PART TO PRESERVE
GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN FRENCH AND SAHRAOUI PEOPLES.
ICRC DELEGATION, COMMUNIQUE ASSERTS, HAD OPPORTUNITY TO
VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS AND TO WITNESS AT FIRST-HAND
CONSEQUENCES OF MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN GENOCIDE.
SAHRAOUI PEOPLE, COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDES, HAS RIGHT TO
ASK INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO OVERSEE STRICT

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APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS ON TREATMENT
OF POWS AND TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THOUSANDS

OF HOSTAGES BEING HELD IN TAN TAN, EL AYOUN, DAKHLA
AND OTHER AREAS.

2. POLISARIO INFORMATION MINISTER BEING QUOTED HERE AS
SAYING THAT FRENCHMEN WILL BE FREED "IN A FEW DAYS,"
PROBABLY WITHIN SAHARA. ORGANIZATIONS INVITED TO ATTEND
LIBERATION CEREMONY INCLUDE ICRC AND FRENCH-SAHRAOUI
FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE CONFIRMS
MINISTER'S STATEMENT AND ADDS THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL
IN ALL PROBABILITY NOT BE REPRESENTED AT CEREMONY.

3. FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE ADDS THAT TWO MEN TO BE RELEASED ARE
JEAN PAUL DIEF AND PIERRE SEGUIRO, TEACHERS FROM
LYCEE IN AGADIR CAPTURED DURING HUNTING TRIP IN SOUTHERN
MOROCCO IN DECEMBER 1975. (ALGIERS 0182 NOTAL).
SOURCE ASSUMES THAT TWO MEN WERE BEING HELD FOR USE IN
BARGAINING FOR MORE EVEN-HANDED FRENCH POLICY ON SAHARA
QUESTION.

4. FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE ALSO ADDS THAT NOTHING HAS
BEEN HEARD OF FIVE FRENCH YOUTHS WHO HAVE BEEN MISSING
IN SAHARA SINCE JANUARY 13 (ALGIERS 0889 NOTAL AND PREVIOUS).
FRENCH CONTINUE TO PRESUME THAT THESE YOUTHS ARE DEAD.

5. COMMENT: POLISARIO'S LONG DELAY IN RELEASING TWO
MEN HAS DONE NOTHING TO ENHANCE ITS IMAGE.

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